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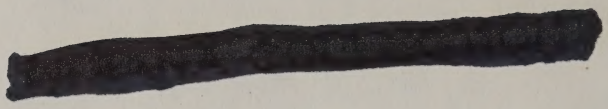

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A century at Holy Trinity

A Century at

HOLY TRINITY

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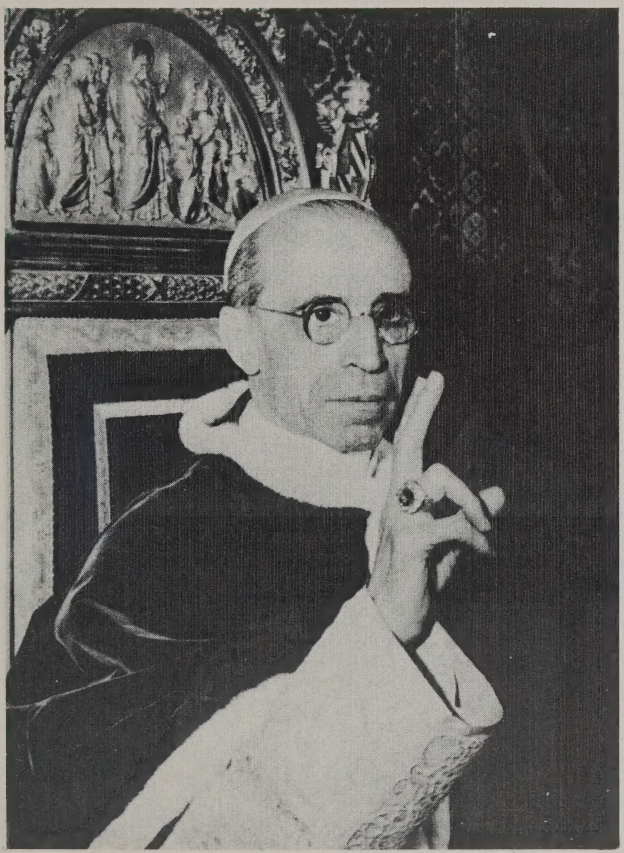
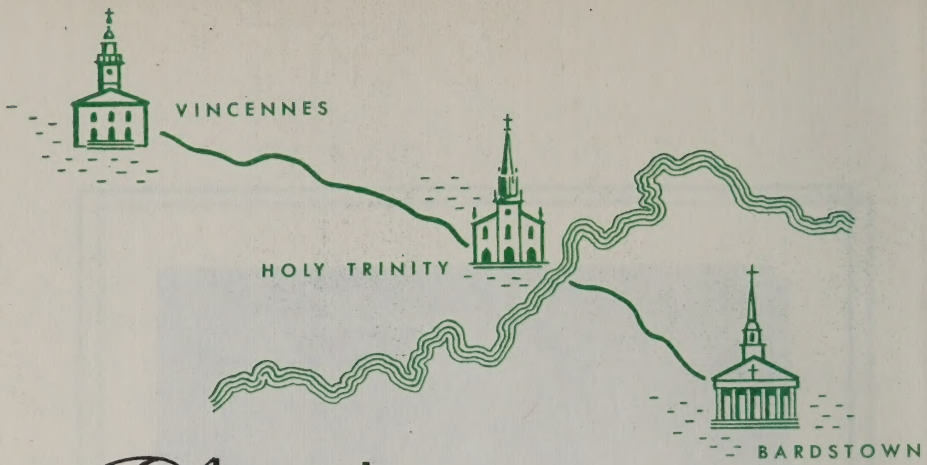


His Holiness Pope Pius XII

Most Rev. Archbishop Paul A. Schulte, D.D.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph E. Hamill, Ph.D. P.A.



A Century AT HOLY TRINITY

I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of Thy house—and the place where Thy glory dwelleth." *Psalms 25-8*

These words of the Psalmist have been spoken by the priest at the Altar of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, every morning for one hundred years, during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. They indeed signify the sentiment of the people, and summarize the history of a century at Holy Trinity.

In order to better experience a justifiable pride in the glorious achievements of the Church in this area—it is well to turn back the pages of history, far beyond the time, when the present Holy Trinity Church was first used as a place of worship . . . October, 1852!

There were obviously a few struggling souls in Floyd County, many years *before* 1852, since we know traditionally that an occasional itinerant priest would stay overnight in some Catholic home, and take care of the spiritual needs of these faithful few. Father Stephen Badin is credited with having said the first Mass in the County, in the year 1819, in a private residence.

It was not until about 1823, that the first Catholic Church in the County was built, 1½ miles from Mooresville, on a plat of ground granted to Thomas Piers, by deed dated April 2, 1818, and signed by James Monroe, President of the United States at that time. It was this little roughly hewn log church, in the scenic setting of "The Knobs", that cradled Catholicity in this area. Occasionally, early Missionaries from Kentucky came to this little log chapel, high up in the hills of Southern Indiana, to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, for the few Catholic families in the surrounding area. Mentioned among these early Missionaries, in addition to Father Badin, were the Reverends: David Mulholland, Philip Horstman, Ignatius Reynolds, and Joseph Ferneding.

It cannot be definitely determined whether or not there were any Catholics in the town of New Albany in 1823—at the time this log church was built at

"The Knobs". We do know, however, that in 1829 Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget—accompanied by the newly ordained Father Robert A. Abell—on one of his trips from Bardstown, Kentucky, to Vincennes, Indiana, via Clark's "Trace" or the Old Cart Road, as it was sometimes called — discovered a few Catholic families in New Albany, and offered Mass for them in a private home. This apparently was the first Mass celebrated within the confines of New Albany.

On May 6, 1834—Pope Gregory XVI, apprized of the opportunities for greater expansion of the Church in the Middle West, established the Diocese of Vincennes, and appointed Rev. Simon Brute de Nemur, as its first Bishop. There were entirely too few priests at that time to care for even the most meager needs of the pioneer Catholics, scattered throughout this section of Indiana . . . and Bishop Brute soon realized this situation must be considerably improved, before any spiritual advancement could be anticipated.

In his determination to provide more priests for his new Diocese, as quickly as possible, Bishop Brute visited his native land, France, in the hope of recruiting some missionary-minded young priests, from his own Fatherland. So ardently did he plead the cause of the spiritual needs in this newly created Diocese in Indiana — he returned to the United States on July 21, 1836, with a party of twenty—comprising 11 priests, 2 deacons, 2 subdeacons, 3 who had received Minor Orders, and 2 promising students. Among them was . . . LOUIS FRANCIS NEYRON! A name to remember! An illustrious name, indeed, in the annals of catholicity in Floyd County. For it was Father Louis Francis Neyron, whom Bishop Brute selected from his little band of missionaries, to lead the spiritual destinies of the people in the mission territory of New Albany.

Even from the limited information available — chapters could be written about this man of God—Louis Francis Neyron, and his fascinating fruitful career as . . . Surgeon, Soldier, Priest and Professor!

Father Neyron was a native Frenchman — having been born in Belley, France, around the year 1800. Many are the stories of fact or fancy, which have passed to posterity, concerning his early days in France, prior to his coming to the United States in 1836. According to Father Neyron's own statement in an interview with a Chicago news reporter, about 1885, after he retired from active duty . . . he served as surgeon in the French Army under Napoleon, during the retreat from Moscow — and was again with Napoleon when he met defeat at Waterloo. He further stated, he was taken prisoner, and sentenced to death with a number of other captives—but when British officers learned of his skill as surgeon, this command was recalled, and he was drafted into medical service for the wounded British soldiers. Later, upon his release from the army, Neyron decided to become a priest—and went to the Seminary of Lyons, to further his studies. He was ordained at Belley, and had served about eight years in his home Diocese of Belley, at the time Bishop Brute was making his appeal for assistance in the vineyard of Vincennes. Father Neyron, displaying his characteristic courage, answered the call—and sailed from Havre, France, in July 1836, with Bishop Brute and his newly acquired company of clerics.

So it was then, that Father Neyron became the first resident priest in this locality, caring for the spiritual lives of the few Catholic families at "The Knobs", as well as New Albany. It has been said that his first Mass in New Albany, was offered in the home of Joseph Thomas Laden, Fourth and Elm Streets—with an old chest of drawers serving as the first altar.

Father Neyron immediately organized the Catholic congregation in New Albany—and records indicate that the next year, July 3, 1837, he purchased from Daniel and Susan Dwyer, the lot at the northwest corner of Seventh and Market

Streets, for the sum of $600.00. On this lot was built the first Catholic Church in New Albany . . . a little frame structure that served as the original place of worship for all the Catholics in the community. Many present parishoners will remember it as the frame house directly across the street from Holy Trinity School, which was demolished just a few years ago. It is now the site of a private residence, owned and occupied by Mrs. Ora Cheap, a member of Holy Trinity parish.

It is interesting to note here, that the first entry in the records at Holy Trinity, indicates the baptism of Peter Francis Graz, who was baptized on September 4, 1836—a short time after the arrival of Father Neyron. The first funeral was conducted for John Meguille, on December 27, 1836. The first marriage was recorded on March 1, 1837, for Frances Edelin and William Robertson.

Father Neyron continued to divide his priestly pioneering between "The Knobs" and New Albany . . . offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in each place on alternate Sunday's. It must be remembered that at that time, much of the surrounding territory was densely forested, and the miles between the two missions were covered by Father Neyron on foot. Since there was no permanent rectory at either locality, he stayed in the homes of some of his parishoners. Father Neyron not only cared for the spiritual needs of the people entrusted to him, but their physical wants as well . . . as he went about the countryside setting bones, pulling teeth, and whatever needed to be done to aid the health and happiness of his people.

During the cholera epidemic which raged throughout the Diocese of Kentucky, the medical skill of Father Neyron was greatly in demand. He worked untiringly, striving to bring relief to these stricken sufferers. As he himself expressed it, when he later referred to the epidemic—"many of these poor victims died in my arms, while I administered the last Sacraments".

With the growth and development of the town of New Albany . . . the Church, too, flourished and grew—until it became expedient to make plans for a larger more permanent church. Thus, on November 21, 1848, the lot on which the present edifice of Holy Trinity stands, was purchased from Thomas L. Smith and wife—and Michael Clynes. It was not until three years later, however, in 1851, that a Building Committee was appointed to proceed with the plans. This Committee was composed of: Joseph H. Looney, Patrick Rice, Nicholas Court, Henry Terstegge, Joseph Terstegge, John Doherty, John Thomas, Henry Robert, Cornelius Murphy, Peter Foust, George Diedlot, Peter Richards, Charles Fetz, John Anewyne, Michael Sweeney, William Ratliffe, John Asham, Leonard Manus, M. Fitzgerald, Bernard Broker, Joseph Bessey. The following Trustees, too, were appointed the same year . . . and thereby gained distinction as the original Board of Trustees of Holy Trinity Church: John Messey, John B. Laden, John Farrell, E. Kolter, Adam Knapp, Michael Clynes, and John F. Monch.

By the next year, 1852, the erection of the new church had advanced to the point of occupancy—though it was some years later, before it was entirely completed. Thus it was that the first Sunday in October 1852 — the present Holy Trinity Catholic Church was opened for service.

Thereafter, Father Neyron was relieved of his mission at "The Knobs" and gave his entire time to the new church. He lived in the East sacristy of the church, and boarded with different members of the parish. So zealous was Father Neyron in spreading the faith—he used his own personal funds, to cover a great part of the expense incurred in the establishment of the property of Holy Trinity parish. He was fully recompensed thru an annuity, however, which continued in force until 1887, within a year of his death, as evidenced by his letter of January 31, 1887:

"The undersigned testifies that the annuity paid to me by the congregation of

Holy Trinity Church, New Albany, has been exactly well paid from the beginning until January 31, 1887". (Signed)

The following excerpts from a diary of one of Holy Trinity's esteemed parishoners, now deceased, is indicative of the generosity, cunning, and courage of this remarkable priest:

"One time the Trustees were at their wit's end to meet some bills. Father Neyron said . . . 'Never worry, I know an old woman who will help us out'—meaning himself".

"When the city was in great alarm over the army of John Morgan, the rebel, a parishoner expressed her fears for the safety of the church. He said—'rest easy, our church will not be disturbed'. The night before he had taken a stranger with him to supper, and this was none other than the famous rebel leader, John Morgan".

"During the time of the Bloody Monday (the Know Nothing Movement in Louisville)—Father Neyron and some of the men armed themselves and guarded the Church."

These doubtless were perilous days in and around the Falls Cities. Another source of information reveals further, the astuteness of Father Neyron in dealing with some hoodlums, during a "Know Nothing" demonstration, which he feared might endanger the new church. He warned them that he was a French citizen, and that if he or his property were harmed, the matter would have to be settled between Paris and Washington. Whether this was the factor which prevented further violence, is of course indefinite; the fact remains, however, that as far as is known, the church suffered no serious damage.

Dr. John Sloan, one of the early physicians of New Albany, and father of Mrs. Anna Sloan Bicknell, whom many parishoners doubtless remember—became a fast friend of Father Neyron. Thru him, Dr. Sloan learned many things pertaining to medicine and surgery . . . and they often worked together in one of the rooms of the Bicknell home, at Sixth and Main Streets. Father Neyron would not accept any renumeration from Dr. Sloan for such information as he passed along to him, so as a token of his appreciation to Father Neyron, Dr. Sloan presented Holy Trinity Church with an organ. It is believed this was the first organ in Holy Trinity Church, and the one referred to in an article written several years later by Professor Kingston. He wrote: "The organ is a curiosity, as it belongs to the days of Handel, being a 'G' organ, and perhaps the only one of its kind in the United States". He went on to say . . . "it will, it is understood, be shortly replaced by a larger instrument of modern construction". (This "larger instrument" referred to by Professor Kingston — which was later installed — is apparently the present fine organ, completely reconstructed in 1950.)

Up to this time, for the most part, the school children were taught by laymen, with Father Neyron himself assisting. There is some indication, however, of the presence of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, for a short time at least, about 1840.

From evidence available, it was about November 1857, when the Sisters of Providence came at Father Neyron's request, and established a mission school at Holy Trinity. About four or five in number, they occupied a little frame house on the southwest corner of Seventh and Market—the location of the present convent. Under their guidance, the school progressed successfully until 1862, when Civil War conditions became so grave along the border towns of Indiana and Kentucky — their withdrawl became necessary.

For twenty-seven years, Father Neyron labored zealously in spreading the faith in Floyd, Harrison, and Clark Counties . . . reaching out on occasional visits to a distance of 75 miles. Hard years they were, indeed, for this pioneer priest, in the wilderness of Indiana. In 1863 he retired from active parish work, and went to Notre Dame University, where he became Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, until shortly before he died

on January 7, 1888. Father Louis Francis Neyron had lived gloriously to a venerable age . . . a veteran in the vineyard of the Lord. His remains rest at Notre Dame, Indiana.

Upon Father Neyron's retirement in April 1863, the Right Rev. Maurice de St. Palis, Bishop of Vincennes at that time, named the Rev. John Gueguen as a temporary replacement during the summer months. In September, his nephew, Rev. Louis Gueguen, was transferred from "The Knobs" to take charge at Holy Trinity. This appointment, too, was of short duration—as the next Spring, April 1864, Father John Mougin was transferred from Loogootee to become Pastor at Holy Trinity.

Father Mougin soon endeared himself to the members of the parish—and set about to continue the good work inaugurated by Father Neyron. He had an unusually fine voice, and attained recognition both as a speaker and singer. Naturally then, he took a special interest in the choir, and instructed its members in the rudiments of Gregorian chant.

Few realize, when hearing the two bells of Holy Trinity peal out a summons to Divine service, that these bells were named and blessed in colorful ceremonies, before being raised to a permanent place in the belfry. An old parish register indicates that on September 10, 1865—"the most Rev. and Most Illustrous Maurice de St. Palais, Bishop of Vincennes, blessed with proper rites and ceremonies, the bell of this church, with the name *Holy Trinity*. The sponsors were Patrick Rice and Carolyn Doherty. Assisting the Rt. Rev. Bishop were the Rev. Montariol, Panzer, and Mougin". Almost four years later, on May 17, 1869, the second bell was blessed and given the name of *Mary*. The sponsors at that time were Thomas Hanlon and Mary Vernia.

To Father Neyron goes the credit for acquiring the various lots on Seventh and Market Streets, and erecting the first buildings—but to Father Mougin goes much of the credit for the improvements thereon. He built the present Rectory, on the site of the original little frame schoolhouse put up by Father Neyron, which had been destroyed by fire in 1868. Father Mougin also built the original brick school on the present site, which was for some time used only as a boys' school . . . the old frame church building across the street, being used as a school for the girls. Later, in 1873, when the Sisters of Providence reopened their school, the older girls were taught in the Nuns' home.

The newly ordained Meinrad Fleishmann was appointed assistant at Holy Trinity in 1867. Parish records also indicate that Father Mougin was occasionally assisted by Revs. Gustave Ginnsz and Bartholomew Piers, of nearby parishes.

There were two ordinations to the Holy Priesthood during Father Mougin's time: Eugene McBarron, who had begun his training under Father Neyron, received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, on June 8, 1871—and thereby became the first clerical son of Holy Trinity parish. The second, was Edward Spelman, ordained on August 3, 1873.

In 1881, Father Mougin concluded his pastorate at Holy Trinity—being transferred to St. Michael's, Madison, Indiana. He later returned to his native land, France, where he died in quiet retirement a few years later.

When Father Mougin left New Albany, Right Rev. Francis Silas Chatard, successor to Bishop de St. Palais, appointed the Rev. John Baptist Kelly, to fill the vacancy as Pastor of Holy Trinity.

Father Kelly, whom many parishoners still remember with affection, was a native of Donegal, Ireland. He received his formal education in this country and Canada, and was ordained in 1874, in Indianapolis. Following seven years' pastorate at Cambridge, Indiana, Father Kelly was appointed Pastor of Holy Trinity in 1881. He automatically became the first irremovable pastor when Holy Trinity was raised to an irremovable parish, at the Synod of the Diocese of Vincennes in 1886.

Like his predecessors, Father Kelly took a keen interest in the development of his parish, materially as well as spiritually. In order to keep pace with a growing community, and to better accommodate an increasing congregation . . . he made many changes and improvements in the property of Holy Trinity parish. After some slight changes in the interior of the church—his first big project was building a more commodious school. Hence, by 1883, the brick structure which is still being used as a school building (with the exception of the new front, recently added) was completed at a cost of $20,000. He then supervised the building of a new convent for the Sisters, next to the school—the expense of which was borne by the Order of Sisters of Providence.

The custom set by Father Neyron in providing laymen to assist the Sisters in teaching the boys, was continued during the pastorates of both Father Mougin and Father Kelly. The name of Byrne, referred to as "teacher Byrne", seems to get particular mention in this respect, as quite a celebrated and capable Professor . . . several of his pupils having attained prominent positions. The last in the line of teaching laymen at Holy Trinity School was Professor Kingston, a native of Kings County, Ireland, who came to Holy Trinity in 1884 to teach the senior boys. A number of men still prominent in the parish will remember him—and can well recall many of his accomplishments with the boys of Holy Trinity School, just before the turn of the century.

The original shingle roof of the church, long recognized as a fire hazard, was replaced under Father Kelly's direction, with one of a permanent fireproof material. An improved heating system, too, was then installed . . . a modern hot air furnace replacing the inadequate unsightly stoves. The pews also were remodeled and rearranged, since the elimination of stoves provided room for a greater seating capacity.

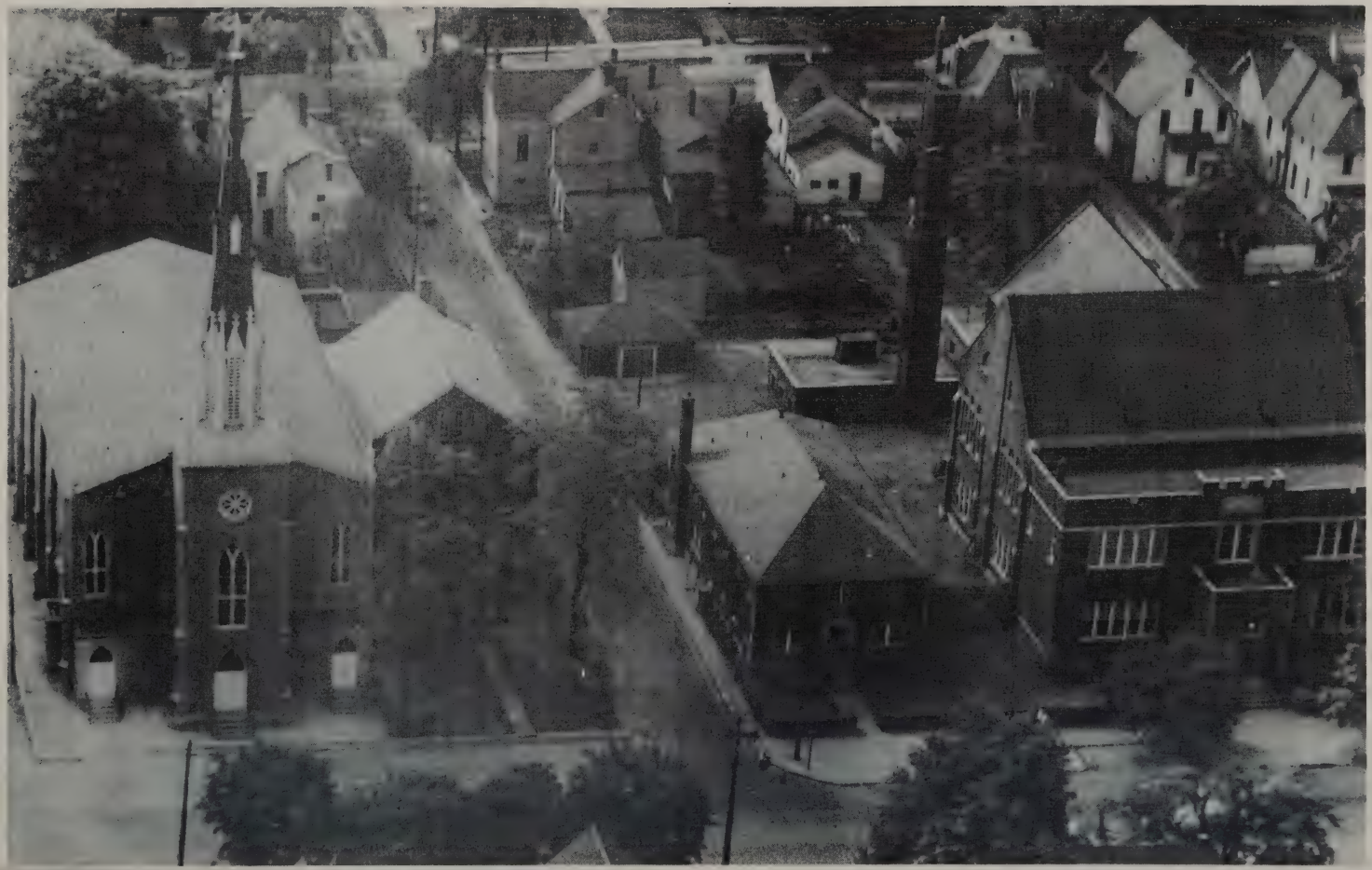
The cemetery on Green Valley Road which had ben purchased by Father Neyron on October 14, 1857, for the sum of $1100.00, received some necessary improvements, in the form of fencing, drainage, carriage ways, and a new entrance.

With ever increasing responsibility and labor, it became evident that Father Kelly should have help—and in 1886, Reverend Joseph Matthews was appointed as his first assistant. Father Matthews was both energetic and capable, and his ability in handling matters of the parish, made it possible for Father Kelly to take a trip abroad. He had been making plans for further beautifying the interior of Holy Trinity Church, and this trip to Europe provided him with the opportunity to observe what had been done in many of the old world edifices.

In an article written by Professor Kingston for the Catholic Record, concerning the early history of Holy Trinity . . . we find the following: "In the Spring of 1887 Father Kelly visited Ireland and the Continent of Europe, entered the Eternal City, kissed the hand of His Holiness, prayed for his people in the home of the Blessed Virgin at Loretto, and returned in September of the same year, bringing with him many souvenirs blessed by Pope Leo XIII and carrying with him also the Apostolic Benediction for his congregation".

Among these souvenirs were several medals of the Blessed Virgin, which Father Kelly had cast in Rome, from silver half-dollars which he had taken with him for that purpose. These medals were for members of the soon-to-beformed Blessed Virgin Sodality. One of these medals, at least, is still in existence, in the possession of a niece of the recipient. Later, Father Kelly received the official approbation of Bishop Chatard, dated November 27, 1891, for the erection of the Young Ladies Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception — with St. Rose of Lima as secondary patron.

Another interesting sidelight to Father Kelly's trip abroad, concerns the Black Thorn hedge which he had sent home from Ireland, for the purpose of enclos-



ing the rectory lawn. A number of these bushes are still growing there.

Arrangements were finally completed, and during the years 1889-1890, extensive interior improvements were made to Holy Trinity Church, as planned. The work included newly frescoed walls—improved gas lighting equipment — beautiful stained-glass windows — and three artistically styled altars, the main one said to have been the design of Father Kelly himself. The windows, exquisite in color and pattern, are still a source of edification, and a tribute to the memory of the donors:

Roger and Mary Doherty
In memory of Thomas and Anna McClintick
Charles and Margaret Schwartzel
Owen and Ellen Tegart
Louis and Mary Vernia
The Young Ladies' Sodality
St. Patrick's Benevolent Society
Miles and Rose Kahoe
C.T.A. Literary Society
Henry and Florence Terstegge
John and Ida Russell
John and Melissa Lyons
John and Catherine Vernia
Thomas and Rose Dowd
The Altar Society
Rev. J. B. Kelly

The New Albany Ledger of February 7, 1890 — and the Louisville Post of February 8, 1890, carried lengthy articles praising the Pastor, Father J. B. Kelly, and the parishoners of Holy Trinity, for their work in decorating the Church . . . and announced special ceremonies for Sunday, February 9, 1890. At that time the Rt. Rev. Francis Silas Chatard, Bishop of Vincennes, officiated in the blessing of the newly erected altars.

Later—Father Kelly had the entire exterior of the original brick church covered with a more decorative facing.

In addition to Father Matthews, the various assistants who served during the pastorate of Father Kelly were:

Rev. Dennis McCabe
Rev. John F. Stanton
Rev. Theodore Mattingly
Rev. Edward Kenny

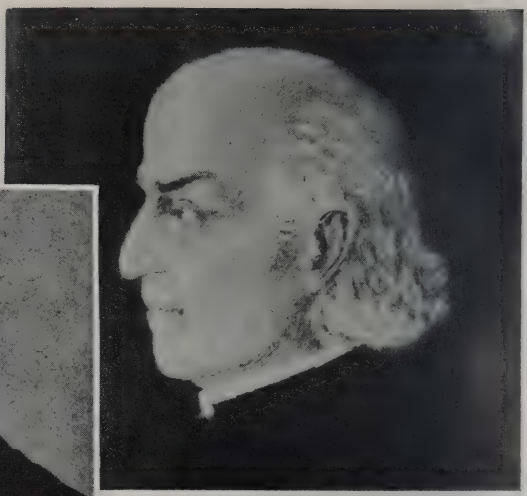
The parish was blessed with four ordinations to the priesthood while Father Kelly was Pastor:

Rev. John Ryves, Oct. 16, 1881
Rev. Joseph Byrne, May 26, 1888
Rev. Francis Dowd, May 26, 1888
Rev. Francis Ryves, June 16, 1899
(brother of Father John Ryves)

Always a relentless foe of alcoholism, and its disastrous far-reaching effects in the home, the Church, and the community—Father Kelly organized the Total Abstinence Society . . . a group of men and boys who annually pledged themselves against the use of alcohol. Since this same procedure was followed for a number of years, many men of the parish well remember the ceremony, which formed a part of the May day service. This organization soon grew to be the most outstanding of its kind in the state, and brought fame and favor to the Pastor who was instrumental in its inauguration. Even today, in this community, the name of Father Kelly is immediately associated with this endeavor.

Church records indicate that a number of other societies were formed and flourished during this period. Among them were: St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Catholic Knights, St. Aloysius Cadets, Young Ladies' Sodality. Also prominent was the Altar Society, the oldest organization in the parish, which was established by Father Neyron back in 1854.

Time marches forever onward . . . and on the first Sunday in October 1902, the Golden Jubilee of Holy Trinity Church was observed with color and dignity. At ten o'clock—a Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by the Right Rev. Francis Silas Chatard, then Bishop of Indianapolis (the seat of the Diocese having been moved from Vincennes). The sermon was delivered by the Right Rev. Denis O'Donaghue, Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis, on the "Glories and Beauties of Heaven". The choir selected Haydn's Second Mass to sing for the occasion. In the evening, the exercises were continued at Holy Trinity



Rev. L. F. Neyron

Rev. John Mougin

Rev. J. B. Kelly

PASTORS

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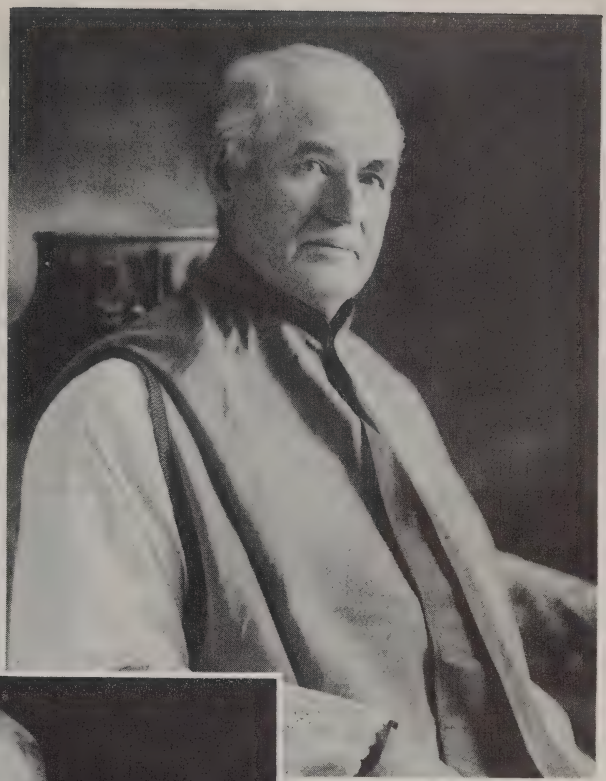
Y TRINITY

CHURCH



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles Curran

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph E. Hamill

School Hall, attended by parish members, visiting clergy, and civic dignataries.

The program included choral numbers by the school children, and other musical selections. Edward Fitzpatrick, a son of the parish, read an article which he had written on the early history of Holy Trinity—followed by an address by the Hon. Alexander Dowling, Judge of the Supreme Court of Indiana.

The Louisville newspapers were generous in the space they devoted to a story of Holy Trinity's Golden Jubilee. Quoting now from the Kentucky Irish American, under date of Saturday, October 11, 1902, concerning Judge Dowling's address . . . "it was historic, reminiscent, a gem in literary style, and eloquent in its delivery. From the days of his boyhood Judge Dowling has known Holy Trinity, its people, their sacrifices, their triumphs, and their grand endeavors to aggregate the splendid buildings, the beautiful and holy altars and decorations, and the system of religion, education, temperance, charity and good works, for the congregation and the people of New Albany they represent. Judge Dowling, with so prolific a theme, spoke feelingly as well as eloquently, and was just to all . . . to the Clergy, the Trustees, the Sisters of Providence, the Congregation. His tribute to the Rev. John B. Kelly, the rector of Holy Trinity for the past twenty-two years, was just, and found response in the hearts of all who heard it".

The next day, Monday, October 3, 1902—Father Kelly offered a Requiem Mass for the deceased members of the parish. The school children, too, were remembered in a special Mass by the Pastor, the following day — Tuesday, October 4, 1902.

In less than three years after this epochal Golden Jubilee — the beloved Father John B. Kelly was stricken with a heart attack, and died on April 28, 1905, at St. Joseph's Infirmary, Louisville, after twenty-four years of ardent and active service as Pastor of Holy Trinity.

More than one hundred clergymen and dignataries of the Diocese, and many from neighboring states gathered for the last Rites—as friends of every faith, thronged the Church and the street outside.

Solemn Requiem High Mass was offered by he Rev. John W. Doyle, a lifelong friend of Father Kelly . . . and the Rev. Francis B. Dowd and Rev. John F. Byrne were Deacon and Sub-Deacon, respectively. The Rev. Joseph Chartrand, then of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, was the Master of Ceremonies, with the Rev. Frank Ryves as Assistant. The sermon was delivered by the Right Rev. Denis O'Donaghue, Auxiliary Bishop of the Indianapolis Diocese. Bishop O'Donaghue was assisted by Rev. Eugene McBarron of Evansville, and the Very Rev. Edward M. Faller of St. Mary's Church, New Albany.

In the funeral procession to the cemetery on the Green Valley Road, were all the Societies of the parish, the school children, parishoners, and friends. The active pallbearers, for the first Pastor of Holy Trinity to be buried in the church cemetery, were the Trustees: Joseph Bruns, Louis Vernia, Andrew Connell, John Cody, James Russell, John McBarron, Patrick Burke and Alexander James.

And so—with the passing of Father John Baptist Kelly—another chapter was concluded in the history of Holy Trinity parish.

The people of Holy Trinity parish were again blessed, in the pastoral appointment of the Rev. Charles Curran, in the summer of 1905. One of twelve children, he was born in 1851 in Seneca Falls, New York. He received his early training for the priesthood at St. Bonaventure College, New York, and continued his studies in Theology and Philosophy at St. Meinrad, Indiana, where he was ordained by the Right Reverend Francis Silas Chatard, Bishop of Indianapolis, on June 11, 1881. Before coming to New Albany in 1905, he served at a number of other parishes in the Indianapolis diocese.

Most of the adults of Holy Trinity parish today, as well as the citizenry of New Albany at large, remember well,

th love and admiration, the priestly dignity and deep spirituality of "Father Curran". Though his pastorate is characterized chiefly as one of great spiritual growth—his zeal in the physical development of the parish was none the less fervent.

During the regime of the late Monsignor Curran, a centralized heating system for the church, rectory, school, and sisters' home was installed—the school improved—and the church newly frescoed. His proudest achievement, however, was attained with the establishment of the free tuition system set up for Holy Trinity School, thru the School Endowment Fund.

Highly regarded as one of the outstanding priests of the Diocese, Monsignor Curran had a profound knowledge of Catholic Theology and Philosophy, and an amazing memory for historical facts. In recognition of his ability in affairs of the Church, he received many Diocesan appointments. Back in 1910, he was named as Dean of the New Albany Deanery . . . and was subsequently appointed a Diocesan Consultor—a member of the Vigilance Committee — and served on the Board of Examiners for the Junior Clergy. In October 1924, he was raised to the rank of Domestic Prelate by His Holiness Pope Pius XI, and thereby became a member of the Papal Household, as a Monsignor. A few months later, in January 1925, his formal investiture took place at Holy Trinity, with the Most Rev. Joseph Chartrand, Bishop of Indianapolis, officiating.

The years 1930 and 1931 were indeed Jubilee years for Monsignor Curran. July 1930 marked his Silver Jubilee at Holy Trinity, and the congregation paid tribute to its revered Pastor, who had just completed twenty-five years in the service of the parish. A solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Jubilarian—and Rev. Michael Halpin, Pastor of the neighboring parish of St. Augustine's, Jeffersonville, and formerly one of Monsignor Curran's early assistants—delivered the sermon. John E. Fagan presided at the informal Silver Jubilee program in the evening, which included addresses by Mayor C. B. McLinn, Rev. Leo Lindemann, Assistant to Monsignor Curran at that time, and Louis I. Vernia, who so ably represented the congregation.

The days of June 11 thru 16, 1931, were designated as the Golden Jubilee of the Right Reverend Monsignor, upon the occasion of his completion of fifty years in the priesthood. A series of events were scheduled throughout the week, and glowing tributes were paid Monsignor Curran by the entire community, as well as the dignitaries of the Diocese. A public reception, with Charles Tighe as Chairman, was held on Sunday evening, June 14. The Holy Trinity Jubilee Choir opened the program with Mozart's Gloria from Twelfth Mass . . . and other musical selections were presented under the direction of Ellen Gardner (Burke). Sherman Minton, a resident of New Albany, now a Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, gave an address . . . as did Gilbert Powell, an active member of the parish, and Rev. Leo Lindemann—with a response by Monsignor Curran. As their closing number, the Jubilee Choir sang "The Builder", which was especially dedicated to Monsignor Curran. On Tuesday, June 16, the Golden Jubilee Mass was offered by Monsignor Curran, with Rev. Michael Halpin, Assistant Priest at the Mass, and the Reverends Albert Wicke and Joseph Horningford, Deacon and Subdeacon. The Most Reverend Joseph Chartrand, Bishop of Indianapolis, delivered the sermon. Among the many clergymen who honored the Golden Jubilarian with their presence on this occasion were: Rt. Rev. Monsignor Francis P. Ryves, Rev. James McBarron, and Rev. Thomas McGrath, sons of Holy Trinity parish. Gounod's "Messe Solenelle" provided the music for the Mass, with Wilton Terstegge, directing the Holy Trinity Jubilee Choir, and Peter Brown at the organ.

Following the solemn service of the Mass, a banquet was served in Holy Trinity School Hall. The Toastmaster

was the Rev. Charles P. Raffo of Louisville, Kentucky, a close friend of Monsignor Curran. The speakers were the Rev. Michael Halpin, whose subject was "The New Albany Dearery". . . and the Rev. Thomas A. McLoughlin, who also celebrated his Golden Jubilee that year, spoke on "The Jubilarian". As a heartfelt token of their sincere esteem for their Pastor, the congregation presented Monsignor Curran with a chalice that had been made from gold wedding bands, and other cherished pieces of old gold, donated by the parishoners. New gold vases and candlesticks for the Altars were also purchased at that time.

The Altar Society was still an important phase of parish activity during Monsignor Curran's time — and other societies which served significantly then, were the Rosary Society, the Ladies' Circle, the Holy Trinity School Society, and the Young Ladies' Sodality.

Monsignor Curran was a staunch American and a loyal Hoosier, though a native of another state. He was ever audible in his praise of America, as the land of promise—and often spoke of the beautiful city along the Ohio, which offered so many opportunities for its fine inhabitants. His nature was one of quiet reserve, and though a fluent speaker, he rarely spoke at public gatherings. One of his few such appearances was at a St. Patrick's Day celebration given by the New Albany Kiwanis Club.

During World War I, the blessing of Monsignor Curran followed the members of his parish who left their homes to go into the service of their country. The plaque of the parish was inscribed with seventy-three names, including one woman—a Red Cross nurse.

Sons of the parish to enter the priesthood during the years 1905-1934 were:

Rev. James Gregoire
Rev. John McBarron
Rev. John Flynn
Rev. Thomas McGrath
Rev. Eugene Hanafee
Rev. James McBarron

The priests who served as faithful assistants to Monsignor Curran during his pastorate in New Albany were:

1905—Rev. P. H. Griffin
1907—Rev. M. F. Halpin
1909—Rev. J. H. Ryan
(became Bishop of Omaha, Neb., and later first Archbishop of Omaha)
1910—Rev. D. N. Manning
1911—Rev. James Ryan
1912—Rev. Michael Shea
1913—Rev. A. G. Wicke
1916—Rev. George Scheidler
1917—Rev. Joseph Honningford
1918—Rev. Joseph Kempf
1919—Rev. C. F. Walsh
1923—Rev. John Rodutsky
1924-1934—Rev. Leo Lindemann

On June 20, 1934, after several months of failing health, which precluded further active service, Monsignor Curran was named Pastor Emeritus of Holy Trinity Church by the Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Bishop of Indianapolis . . . and the Right Rev. Joseph E. Hamill, Ph.D P.A., became the newly appointed Pastor, June 29, 1934.

Less than a month thereafter, on Sunday, July 15, 1934, at 8:15 AM, Monsignor Curran passed away. Monsignor Hamill hurried into Church, and announced to the congregation that their beloved Pastor had just died—thus ending fifty-three years of faithful service in the priesthood . . . twenty-eight of which were devoted to the people of Holy Trinity.

The Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, Bishop of Indianapolis, pontificated at the funeral Mass, on Wednesday, July 18, 1934. The Rev. Charles Raffo of Louisville was Assistant Priest; the Rev. Patrick Griffin of Chicago, who had been Monsignor Curran's first assistant in New Albany, served as Deacon, and the Rev. Albert Wicke, another early assistant, acted as Subdeacon. Rev. Michael Halpin delivered the funeral eulogy. There were 107 clergymen in attendance at the Mass, to pay final tribute to the spiritual leadership of Monsignor Charles Curran.

The ushers at the Mass were: Amadee Heleringer, Charles Marguet, Leon Hammer, Charles Bocard, Halpin Mc-

Barron, Charles Schmitt, Joseph Marguet, Bernard Weber, Lewis Dreyer, John Burke.

The Honorary Pallbearers were: Mayor Charles B. McLinn, Joseph Bruns, Dr. Robert W. Harris, John Howe, Sr., Judge John M. Paris, James Russell, Sr., Dr. J. F. Habermel, Louis Schaaf, Sr.

The Active Pallbearers were the Trustees at that time: John Coyle, Edward J. Tighe, Gilbert Powell, Victor Sourdry, Dennis Bocard, Andrew Connell, Louis I. Vernia, John A. Cody, Sr.

Monsignor Curran became the second Pastor of Holy Trinity Church to be buried in the Church cemetery on the Green Valley Road. Services at the grave were conducted by the Rev. John Gorman of Bradford, assisted by Rev. Leo Lindemann, who had served Monsignor Curran so untiringly during his last years.

At the risk of intrusion into the humble reserve of the present Pastor, the Right Rev. Joseph E. Hamill, successor to Monsignor Curran—his personal attainments and parish achievements need be recorded.

A native of Indianapolis, Indiana—Monsignor Hamill was born on January 3, 1886—and received his grade-school education there at St. Patrick's School. In 1900, he went to St. Meinrad, Indiana, to begin his training for the priesthood . . . and was ordained on June 5, 1909, by the Right Reverend Denis O'Donaghue, Auxiliary Bishop of Indianapolis. Incidentally, through an unusual chain of circumstances, it was Bishop O'Danaghue (then Father O'Donaghue), who had baptized Monsignor Hamill—later heard his first confession—gave him his First Holy Communion — then as Bishop O'Donaghue, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation—and all the Holy Orders from Tonsure to Priesthood.

A record of the early parish work of Monsignor Hamill, indicates he was for some time Assistant at St. Augustine's Church, Jeffersonville. He served subsequently in several parishes in Indiana, until 1919, at which time he entered the Catholic University of America for graduate work, from where he received his degree as Doctor of Philosophy in 1922. He was then placed in charge of Gibbons Hall, a residence for undergraduate students, for one year, before returning to Indianapolis, where he acted in several capacities in Diocese administration. He became Vice Chancellor of the Diocese in 1924—succeeding to the office of Chancellor in 1932. Like his predecessor, he served as a Diocesan Consultor — and also on the Board of Clergy examiners. He has the distinction of having been elevated, in 1933, to the rank of Prothonotary Apostolic, with the privilege of pontificating, and the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

As has been stated, Monsignor Hamill came to Holy Trinity in 1934, and during his administration, the parish has experienced a steady growth. Extensive improvements were in order, to take care of the demands of a rapidly increasing congregation—and the entire parish property received attention. A new convent was constructed, in order to properly house an adequate number of nuns to care for the school. The rectory was completely remodeled — and numerous changes made in the church interior. The sanctuary floor was lowered, eliminating the steps necessary to approach the communion rail, and a new beautifully carved walnut railing replaced the old one. The confessionals which were in the front of the church were removed, and new ones erected in the back. The baptismal font, too, was transferred from the front, to the baptistry in the rear of church.

Since the number of children attending Holy Trinity School had increased considerably, the school building was enlarged, and every available space utilized as school rooms. These changes, of necessity, eliminated the school hall, heretofore used for school and social functions—but the proximity and facilities offered by the Catholic Community Center, has provided well for such parish activities, particularly for the youth.

Within recent years, the Sisters of Providence have added several nuns to their staff at Holy Trinity, in order to provide sufficent teachers for the increased number of school children. The peak enrollment of 596 and 620, with 115 and 98 First Communicants respectively, were reached during 1950 and 1951, prior to the establishment of the new parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. A large number of Holy Trinity parishoners were then taken into the new parish, according to the designated boundary. In September of this year, 1952, the school enrollment numbered 560 students.

Shortly after Monsignor Hamill came to Holy Trinity, the Rosary-Altar Society was formed for all of the women of the parish. It is actually a continuation of the Altar Society, established in 1854, with Mrs. Catherine Tighe as its first President. Through an interesting coincidence, Mrs. Tighe's great granddaughter, Mrs. Ruth Tighe Waters, is now the President of the organization.

Rev. Thomas P. Carey was the first assistant priest to join Monsignor Hamill after his appointment to Holy Trinity. In 1935 Father Carey reorganized the Dramatic Club, and Miss Anna M. Burke became the first President of the new group. This was a revival of the Dramatic Society which had flourished intermittently throughout the years at Holy Trinity—with particular emphasis about 1907, under the direction of Rev. M. F. Halpin, and again in 1913, under Rev. A. G. Wicke's supervision. The amphitheatre in Glenwood Park, and the old Kerrigan Theatre, as well as the stage of Holy Trinity School, were the scenes of many enjoyable amateur productions.

In March 1938, the men of the parish became affiliated with the St. Vincent dePaul Society, and named James J. Russell as their first President. On September 17, 1950, a Praesidium of the Legion of Mary, composed of both auxiliary and active members, was organized at Holy Trinity, under the guidance of Rev. Louis Marchino. Mrs. William L. Lieber assumed the role of first President. The C. Y. O. (Catholic Youth Organization) is another active group, recently formed at Holy Trinity, with Tom Corrao, its first President. It is, as its name implies, an organization for young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30. The most recent organization in the parish, is St. Paul's Guild, a society composed entirely of converts of the Catholic faith. It was established at Holy Trinity by Rev. Paul Sweeney, in April 1952, with Robert Olson, President.

In January 1937, the rampaging Ohio River, which inundated about two-thirds of New Albany, seemed to have spent itself at the intersection of Seventh and Market Streets, the site of the parish property of Holy Trinity. While slight damage resulted to the school and sisters' home, the church itself was spared —the raging waters cresting right before the door.

A few weeks later, Monsignor Hamill inaugurated the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. A triduum — April 4-5-6, 1937—conducted by The Redemptorist Fathers, marked the formal opening. This service has continued, without interruption, every Tuesday evening since it was established—and a number of the faithful who joined in this devotion when it began, have continuously honored Our Blessed Lady with their presence.

Again during World War II, the youth of Holy Trinity parish went marching away in the defense of their country. They numbered about 305, ten of whom were girls. This number also included Rev. Louis Marchino, Assistant at Holy Trinity, who as Lieutenant Senior Grade, served as Chaplain in the Navy from 1943 to 1949. Soon after his release, he resumed his place as Assistant at Holy Trinity. Now in the Naval Reserve, Father Marchino has the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Several young men of Holy Trinity parish, made the supreme sacrifice, and gave their lives for their country. May their Souls rest in peace!

Though not now officially at war—the Korean conflict and the defense of European countries against the peril of Communism, has made it necessary to again invoke the Selective Service Act, and many of our young men are now actively engaged in the service of the United States, both at home and abroad.

Monsignor Hamill's keen perception as a parish manager and financier cannot be questioned. Through his astute management, and that of Monsignor Curran before him, Holy Trinity has for several years been a debt-free parish — with a tuition-free school. The numerous improvements which were made to the church property within the past few years, were all adequately financed in advance.

Just as the music and art of the Church today, are becoming more in conformity with the original Liturgy of the Church—its altars, too, are following this trend. Consequently, in 1951, the ornate gothic altars at Holy Trinity were replaced with those of a liturgical style—constructed of handsome walnut. The main altar, with its new golden tabernacle, and crucifix suspended above, has a matching baldachin rising high over it. Rich ruby-red velvet drapes serve as a backdrop. To harmonize with this change, the entire interior of the church was refrescoed, and other improvements made.

It would seem appropriate to state here, that the beautiful gold monstrance exquisitely set with precious jewels, used at special solemn functions, was a gift of the late John Coyle—an exemplary gentleman, a faithful, loyal Catholic.

Our Lady of Providence High School, a Catholic coeducational instiution to serve the youth of this area, was opened in September 1951, under the auspices and supervision of the Sisters of Providence. The formal dedication took place on June 14, 1952, at which time, The Most Rev. Paul A. Schulte, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis formally blessed the buildings, grounds, and the entire enterprise. Sister Marie Helen is the Superior . . . and the Rev. Francis Reine, Spiritual Director.

The purchase price of the land surrounding the High School, is being borne by the nearby parishes, and Holy Trinity

is generously assuming its assessment of $70,000.

The realization of this fine Catholic High School was made possible at this time, through the generosity of the Sisters of Providence, who assumed the complete responsibility for the entire building construction, and the operation of the High School. It is one of the most beautifully appointed and perfectly equipped schools in this vicinity, and one which merits every consideration.

The splendid work contributed by the Sisters of Providence, throughout these many years, in the interests of Holy Trinity, has indeed been an inspiration —as evidenced by the roster of the Order of Sisters of Providence, at St. Mary's of the Woods. It contains the following names of girls from Holy Trinity parish:

Sister Joseph Aloysius Byrne
Sister Cecelia Clare Bocard
Sister Timothy Cullins
Sister Marie Janice Cummings
Sister Mary Julia Cummings
Sister Jean Anne Daniel
Sister Rose deLourdes Derment
Sister Mary Francis Egan
Sister Pauline Egan
Sister Mary Everista Fleming
Sister Marilyn Garry
Sister Mary Baptista Kelly
Sister Mary Gerard Kelly
Sister Ann Clare Lancaster
Sister St. Eugenia McBarron
Sister Francis Helen McBarron
Sister Euphemia Maley
Sister Mary Martha Maley
Sister Marie Rose O'Hara
Sister Helen Celeste Quinkert
Sister Joan Margaret Quinkert
Sister Francis Jean Rosenberger
Sister Marie Celeste Schaaf
Sister Alma Therese Schaefer
Sister Mary Alphonsine Schaefer
Sister Mary Berchmans Schaefer
Sister Mary Vincent Schaefer
Sister Helen Cecile Tighe
Sister Marie Kevin Tighe
Sister Mary Genevieve Todd

In addition . . . several young women from Holy Trinity parish have joined other Orders: Sisters of St. Francis (Oldenburg), Poor Sisters of St. Francis (Mishawaka), Sisters of St. Benedict (Ferdinand), Sisters of Charity (Nazareth), and Sisters of the Holy Cross (Notre Dame).

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The young men of the parish who have been ordained since Monsignor Hamill became Pastor at Holy Trinity are:

Rev. Thomas Corcoran, CPPS
Rev. Marcellus Fisher, OSB
Rev. Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB
Rev. Alvin Deem, OFM
Rev. Henry Kenney, OFM
Rev. Henry Kenny, SJ.

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At the ceremony of Simple Monastic Profession at St. Meinrad's Abbey, on August 1, 1952 . . . another son of the parish, Herman Zimmerman, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Zimmerman, was professed into the Order of St. Benedict. At that time, he received the name of Frater Callistus.

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The following boys of the parish are now students at St. Meinrad's Seminary:

For the Priesthood:
Thomas Tegart
Robert Receveur

For the Brotherhood:
Thomas Quinkert
Patrick Tegart

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Holy Trinity parish is also represented in the Cistercian Order at Gethsemani, Kentucky. Brother Christian, a Trappist Monk, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Loesch.

The following have capably and faithfully served as Assistants to Monsignor Hamill during his regime at Holy Trinity:

Rev. Leo Lindemann
June to Sept. 1934
Rev. Thomas P. Carey
June 1934 to July 1949
Rev. James Jansen
Sept. 1934 to Sept. 1938
Rev. Bernard Burgert
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Rev. Louis Marchino
Sept. 1940 to July 1943
Rev. Anthony McLoughlin
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Rev. William Dorraugh
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The present Assistants at Holy Trinity are: Reverend Paul Sweeney, who came to New Albany in June 1947 . . . and Reverend Louis Marchino, who returned from the Navy in August 1949.

The Board of Trustees presently officiating at Holy Trinity are:

Louis Bauer
Francis Beaucond
Joseph Broecker
John A. Cody, Jr.
John Garry
Thomas Lancaster, Jr.
William L. Lieber
Walter E. Lincoln
John Quinkert
James J. Russell
Charles Schmitt
Joseph Stemle
Paul Tegart
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Special mention should here be made of the long-range Trusteeship of John A. Cody, Sr., and Louis I Vernia. Mr. Vernia attained a record of fifty years' service. Though not now serving in an active capacity on the Board of Trustees, they are both loyal, faithful parish members.

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Through its priests and parishoners, Holy Trinity parish has always taken a vital interest in civic affairs, contributing wholeheartedly to every worthwhile community project. A precedent was set by Holy Trinity Church in this regard on Sunday, August 30, 1952. In cooperation with the Red Cross Bloodmobile Unit, Holy Trinity became the first church in New Albany to set up a blood donor booth in front of the church—where its members were encouraged to register for blood donations, to be used for Korean combat casualties, as well as other such emergencies.

All of the incidents enumerated in this historical survey of a century at Holy Trinity, are indeed interesting milestones. However, it is the spiritual progress which has made the parish—great:

Down through the years, since that first Sunday in October 1852—the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered daily on the Altars of Holy Trinity—each forming a golden link in a glorious unbroken chain, that extends back through the centuries to the heights of Calvary.

Such is the history of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, New Albany, Indiana.

Is it any wonder—that the voice of its people, rises above the din of the century, joins the Priest at the Altar, and rings out with the words of the Psalmist:

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ASSISTANTS
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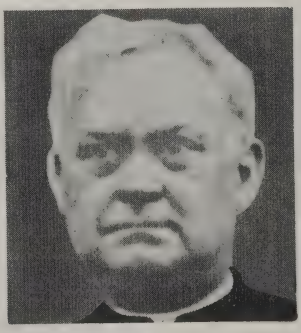
HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH

Rev. P. M. Fleischmann

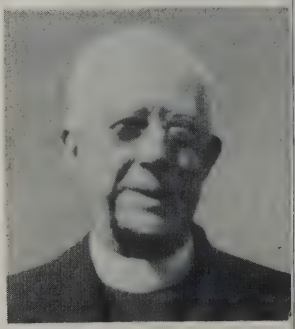
Rev. G. M. Ginnsz

Rev. J. T. Matthews

Rev. Dennis McCabe



Rev. J. F. Stanton



Rev. Theo. Mattingly

Rev. Edw. Kenney

Rev. P. H. Griffin

Rev. M. F. Halpin

Rev. J. H. Ryan

Rev. D. N. Manning

Rev. James Ryan

Rev. Michael Shea

Rev. A. G. Wicke

Rev. Geo. Scheidler

Rev. Jos. Honningford

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Rev. C. F. Walsh

Rev. J. Rodutsky

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Rev. Wm. Dorraugh

Rev. Paul Sweeney

Rev. Louis Marchino

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